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Social development, including questions relating to the world social situation and to youth, ageing, disabled persons and the family

Report of the Third Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Naif Bin Bandar **Al-Sudairy** (Saudi Arabia)

I. Introduction

1. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 17 September 1999, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its fifty-fourth session the item entitled "Social development, including questions relating to the world social situation and to youth, ageing, disabled persons and the family" and to allocate it to the Third Committee.

2. The Third Committee considered the item at its 3rd to 6th, 12th, 14th, 17th, 20th, 22nd and 26th meetings, from 6 to 8 and on 14, 15, 19, 21, 25 and 28 October 1999. An account of the Committee's discussion is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.3/54/SR.3-6, 12, 14, 17, 20, 22 and 26).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Relevant sections of the report of the Economic and Social Council for 1999 (A/54/3);[1]

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on the status and role of cooperatives in the light of new economic and social trends (A/54/57);

(c) Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond (A/54/59);

[1] To be issued in *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 3* (A/54/3/Rev.1).

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(d) Interim report of the Secretary-General and the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization entitled "Progress towards the goal of education for all: the year 2000 Assessment" (A/54/128-E/1999/70);

(e) Report of the Secretary-General on the follow-up to the International Year of the Family (A/54/256);

(f) Report of the Secretary-General entitled "International Year of Older Persons, 1999: activities and legacies" (A/54/268);

(g) Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the World Programme of Action concerning disabled persons (A/54/388 and Add.1);

(h) Note by the Secretary-General on the World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth (A/54/62);

(i) Letter dated 29 December 1998 from the Permanent Representatives of Belarus and the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/54/56);

(j) Letter dated 25 January 1999 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Portugal addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the report of the World Youth Forum of the United Nations System on its third session (A/54/61 and Corr.1);

(k) Letter dated 11 February 1999 from the Permanent Representative of Senegal to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/54/66-E/1999/6);

(l) Letter dated 17 May 1999 from the Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the Hague Agenda for Peace and Justice for the Twenty-first Century, adopted by the Hague Appeal for Peace Conference, held at The Hague from 12 to 15 May 1999 (A/54/98).

4. At the 3rd meeting, on 6 October, the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs addressed the Committee (see A/C.3/54/SR.3).

5. At the same meeting, the Director of the Division for Social Policy and Development of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat made an introductory statement (see A/C.3/ 54/SR.3).

II. Consideration of proposals

A. Draft resolution A/C.3/54/L.2

6. By its resolution 1999/18, the Economic and Social Council recommended to the General Assembly the adoption of a draft resolution entitled "Policies and programmes involving youth". The draft resolution was reproduced in document A/C.3/54/L.2.

7. At the 5th meeting, on 8 October, the representative of Portugal orally amended the draft resolution by inserting, after operative paragraph 15, a new operative paragraph, reading:

> "16. *Reiterates* the call made in the Programme of Action to Member States to consider including youth representatives in their delegations to the General Assembly and other relevant United Nations meetings, thus broadening the channels of communication and enhancing the discussion of youth-related issues, and requests the Secretary-General to convey this invitation again to Member States",

and the remaining paragraph was renumbered accordingly.

8. At the 12th meeting, on 14 October, the representative of Senegal orally amended operative paragraph 10 of the draft resolution by replacing the words "in 2000" at the end of the paragraph by the words "in 2001".

9. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/54/L.2, as orally amended, without a vote (see para. 27, draft resolution I).

10. Before the adoption of the draft resolution, statements were made by the representatives of South Africa, Portugal and India; after the adoption of the draft resolution, statements were made by the representatives of the United States of America, Turkey and South Africa.

B. Draft resolution A/C.3/54/L.9/Rev.1

11. At the 22nd meeting, on 25 October, the representative of the Philippines, on behalf of Bangladesh, Belgium, Canada, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Denmark, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, Germany, Greece, India, Indonesia, Italy, Israel, Jamaica, Japan, Malta, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Myanmar, Norway, the Philippines, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, Sweden, Thailand and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, introduced a draft resolution entitled, "Implementation of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons: towards a society for all in the twenty-first century" (A/C.3/54/L.9/Rev.1). Subsequently, Algeria, Austria, Benin, Burkina Faso, Chile, the Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Eritrea, France, Ghana, Guinea, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Jordan, Liberia, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mexico, Morocco, the Netherlands, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Poland, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Sierra Leone, Spain, the Sudan, Suriname, Turkey, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Ukraine and Viet Nam joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

12. In introducing the draft resolution, the representative of the Philippines orally revised it as follows:

(a) Operative paragraph 2, which had read:

> "2. *Welcomes* the initiatives of Governments, the United Nations system and non-governmental organizations for the further equalization of opportunities by, for and with persons with disabilities",

was revised to read:

> "2. *Welcomes* the initiatives of Governments to enhance the rights of persons with disabilities and for the further equalization of opportunities by, for and with persons with disabilities, and also welcomes the contribution of the United Nations system and non-governmental organizations, as appropriate, in this regard";

(b) Operative paragraph 4 was revised by inserting, after the words "to take concrete measures", the words "to promote the implementation of relevant United Nations resolutions and agreed international standards concerning persons with disabilities, in particular the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities".

13. At its 26th meeting, on 28 October, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/54/L.9/Rev.1, as orally revised, without a vote (see para. 27, draft resolution II).

C. Draft resolution A/C.3/54/L.10

14. At the 14th meeting, on 15 October, the representative of Mongolia, on behalf of Antigua and Barbuda, Australia, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Bolivia, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Chile, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Guyana, India, Israel, Madagascar, Malaysia, Malta, Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Myanmar, Namibia, Pakistan, the Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation, Senegal, the Sudan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Trinidad and Tobago and Turkey introduced a draft resolution entitled, "A United Nations literacy decade: education for all" (A/C.3/54/L.10). Subsequently, Algeria, Belgium, Benin, Bhutan, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Colombia, the Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Denmark, the Dominican Republic, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Iceland, Indonesia, Ireland, Jamaica, Japan, Kyrgyzstan, the Netherlands, Nigeria, Norway, Panama, Portugal, San Marino, Sierra Leone, Spain, Tajikistan, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania, Viet Nam and Zimbabwe joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

15. At the 20th meeting, on 21 October, the representative of Mongolia orally revised the draft resolution as follows:

(a) Operative paragraph 9, which had read:

> "9. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in cooperation with the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and Member States, other appropriate organizations and bodies, to submit, through the Economic and Social Council, a proposal for a United Nations literacy decade, with a plan of action for such a decade, on the basis of the outcome of the world education forum, to be held in April 2000, to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session, with a view to proclaiming a United Nations literacy decade for the period 2001-2010",

was revised to read:

> "9. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in cooperation with the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and Member States and with other relevant organizations and bodies, to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-sixth session, through the Economic and Social Council, a proposal for a United Nations literacy decade with a draft plan of action and possible time-frame for such a decade, on the basis of the outcomes of the World Education Forum and the special session of the General Assembly for the five-year review of the World Summit for Social Development";

(b) In operative paragraph 11, the words "fifty-fifth session" were replaced by the words "fifty-sixth session".

16. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/54/L.10, as orally revised, without a vote (see para. 27, draft resolution III).

D. Draft resolution A/C.3/54/L.11

17. At the 17th meeting, on 19 October, the representative of Mongolia, on behalf of Bangladesh, Barbados, Bolivia, Burkina Faso, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Greece, Guinea, India, Italy, Kyrgyzstan, Madagascar, Mongolia, Morocco, Myanmar, Namibia, Thailand, and Trinidad and Tobago, introduced a draft resolution entitled, "Cooperatives in social development" (A/C.3/54/L.11). Subsequently, Cameroon, Colombia, the Dominican Republic, Ethiopia, Finland, Guatemala, Indonesia, Liberia, Nigeria, Pakistan, the

Philippines, Sierra Leone, Spain, the Sudan and Tajikistan joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

18. In introducing the draft resolution, the representative of Mongolia orally revised it as follows:

(a) In operative paragraph 4 (b), the words "Encouraging and facilitating the development of cooperatives" were replaced by the words "Encouraging and facilitating the establishment and development of cooperatives";

(b) In operative paragraph 5, the word "local" was inserted before the words "national and international cooperative organizations".

19. At the 26th meeting, on 28 October, the representative of Mongolia further orally revised the draft resolution as follows:

(a) In operative paragraph 2, the words "Adopts the Guidelines" were replaced by the words "Welcomes the elaboration of the draft guidelines";

(b) Operative paragraph 3, which had read:

> "3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to encourage wider dissemination and utilization of these guidelines by Governments, national, regional and international cooperative organizations through, *inter alia*, the possible introduction of new or the revision of the existing laws and administrative provisions governing the activities of cooperatives, with a view to ensuring a supportive and enabling environment for cooperatives so that they can make an appropriate contribution to the attainment of the goals of social development, including overcoming poverty, securing productive employment and encouraging social integration",

was revised to read:

> "3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to seek views from Governments on the draft guidelines and provide, if necessary, a revised version for adoption";

(c) In operative paragraph 6, the words "in their efforts to disseminate and utilize the guidelines aimed at creating a supportive environment for the development of cooperatives" were revised to read "in their efforts to create a supportive environment for the development of cooperatives".

20. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/54/L.11, as orally revised, without a vote (see para. 27, draft resolution IV).

E. Draft resolution A/C.3/54/L.12

21. At the 14th meeting, on 15 October, the representative of Benin, on behalf of Bangladesh, Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ecuador, Ghana, Liberia, Malaysia, Nigeria, Panama, the Philippines, Senegal, Thailand, and Trinidad and Tobago introduced a draft resolution entitled, "Follow-up to the International Year of the Family" (A/C.3/54/L.12). Subsequently, Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Botswana, Cameroon, the Congo, Croatia, the Dominican Republic, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, France, the Gambia, Ghana, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Madagascar, Malta, Mongolia, Portugal, the Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Saint Kitts and Nevis, San Marino, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Spain, Zambia and Zimbabwe joined in sponsoring the draft resolution and Bangladesh, Burkina Faso and Nigeria withdrew their sponsorship.

22. In introducing the draft resolution, the representative of Benin orally revised the text as follows:

(a) In operative paragraph 3, the words "concerning families" were replaced by the words "including the conduct of studies and applied research on families", and the words "to address national priorities to deal with family issues" were replaced by the words "to address family issues as a matter of national priority";

(b) Operative paragraph 6, which had read:

"6. *Invites* the Commission for Social Development to undertake a comprehensive review of the global situation of families in 2004",

was revised to read:

"6. *Invites* the Commission for Social Development, when adopting its next multi-year programme of work, to consider undertaking a review of the global situation of the family in 2004";

(c) Operative paragraph 7, which had read:

"7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to prepare a fourth biennial progress report and to include therein draft guidelines to explore the appropriate ways and means to observe the tenth anniversary of the International Year of the Family in 2004 and to submit the report to the General Assembly at its fifty-sixth session through the Commission for Social Development and the Economic and Social Council",

was revised to read:

"7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-sixth session, through the Commission for Social Development and the Economic and Social Council, on the appropriate ways and means to observe the tenth anniversary of the International Year of the Family in 2004".

23. At the 26th meeting, on 28 October, the representative of Benin further orally revised the draft resolution as follows:

(a) The fifth preambular paragraph, which had read:

"*Noting with concern* that notwithstanding the achievements of the International Year of the Family since 1994, numerous problem areas exist that require concerted attention, such as the need to develop common ground and common understanding and to improve research, data collection and capacity-building and the training of personnel, in order to formulate, implement and evaluate family-related policies and programmes",

was deleted;

(b) In operative paragraph 1, the words "and endorses the recommendations outlined in it" were replaced by the words "and the recommendations contained therein";

(c) Operative paragraph 3, which had read:

"3. *Urges* Governments to continue to take sustained action at all levels concerning families and, in particular, to promote the role of families in development, and invites Governments to develop concrete measures and approaches to address national priorities to deal with family issues",

was revised to read:

"3. *Urges* Governments to continue to take sustained action at all levels concerning family issues, including studies and applied research, to promote the role

of families in development, and to develop concrete measures and approaches to address national priorities to deal with family issues";

(d) In operative paragraph 5, the words "regional and international cooperation" were replaced by the words "international cooperation", and the words "to facilitate technical assistance, with a focus on least developed and developing countries, and to encourage the organization of subregional and interregional meetings and relevant research" were added to the end of the paragraph;

(e) Operative paragraph 6 was further revised to read:

"6. *Invites* the Commission for Social Development, when adopting its next multi-year programme of work, to consider undertaking a review of the global situation of the family in 2004, bearing in mind that, in different cultural, political and social systems, various forms of the family exist".

24. Also at the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/54/L.12, as orally revised, without a vote (see para. 27, draft resolution V).

25. Before the adoption of the draft resolution, statements were made by the representatives of Spain and the United States of America.

F. Draft decision proposed by the Chairman

26. At its 26th meeting, on 28 October, on the proposal of the Chairman, the Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that it take note of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond (A/54/59) (see para. 28).

III. Recommendations of the Third Committee

27. The Third Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

Draft resolution I
Policies and programmes involving youth

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 50/81 of 14 December 1995, by which it adopted the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond, annexed thereto, as an integral part of that resolution,

Recalling also its resolutions 32/135 of 16 December 1977 and 36/17 of 19 November 1981, by which it adopted guidelines for the improvement of the channels of communication between the United Nations and youth and youth organizations, and 40/14 of 18 November 1985, entitled "International Youth Year: Participation, Development, Peace", by which the guidelines for further planning and suitable follow-up in the field of youth, as contained in the report of the Advisory Committee for the International Youth Year on its fourth session, held at Vienna from 25 March to 3 April 1985,[2] were endorsed,

[2] A/40/256, annex.

Noting especially that, in paragraph 123 of the Programme of Action, current regional and international conferences of ministers responsible for youth affairs in Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean and Western Asia were invited to intensify cooperation with one another and to consider meeting regularly at the international level under the aegis of the United Nations to provide an effective forum for a global dialogue on youth-related issues,

Noting that, in paragraph 124 of the Programme of Action, youth-related bodies and organizations of the United Nations system were invited to cooperate with the above-mentioned conferences,

Recalling that, in paragraph 125 of the Programme of Action, the World Youth Forum of the United Nations System was invited to contribute to the implementation of the Programme of Action through the identification and promotion of joint initiatives to further its objectives so that they better reflected the interests of youth,

Recalling also Economic and Social Council resolution 1997/55 of 23 July 1997 and General Assembly resolution 52/83 of 12 December 1997, in which the Council and the Assembly welcomed the invitation of the Government of Portugal to host the World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth, held at Lisbon from 8 to 12 August 1998,

Welcoming the World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth, hosted by the Government of Portugal in cooperation with the United Nations, as well as the support of the Government of Portugal for the holding of the third session of the World Youth Forum of the United Nations System at Braga, Portugal, from 2 to 7 August 1998,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond,[3] and the Lisbon Declaration on Youth Policies and Programmes,[4] adopted by the World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth;

2. *Takes note* of the holding of the third session of the World Youth Forum of the United Nations System at Braga, Portugal, from 2 to 7 August 1998, and expresses its appreciation to the Government of Portugal for its support;

3. *Calls upon* all States, all United Nations bodies, the specialized agencies, the regional commissions and the intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations concerned, in particular youth organizations, to make every possible effort towards the implementation of the Programme of Action and to consider, within its framework, the appropriate ways and means to follow up the Lisbon Declaration, in accordance with their experience, situation and priorities;

4. *Invites* all relevant United Nations programmes, funds, specialized agencies and other bodies within the United Nations system, as well as other intergovernmental organizations and regional financial institutions, to give greater support to national youth policies and programmes within their country programmes as a way to follow up the World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth;

5. *Reiterates* the call made by the World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth to strengthen the Youth Unit of the United Nations Secretariat, through the provision of all regular staffing and resources necessary for the fulfilment of its mandate, including the provision of effective assistance in the implementation of the Programme of Action;

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[3] A/54/59.

[4] See document WCMRY/1998/28, chap. I, resolution 1.

6. *Encourages* the regional commissions to follow up the World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth in their respective regions, in coordination with regional meetings of ministers responsible for youth and regional youth non-governmental organizations, and to provide advisory services to support national youth policies and programmes in each region;

7. *Endorses* the recommendation made by the World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth that 12 August be declared International Youth Day,[5] and recommends that public information activities be organized at all levels to support the Day as a way to promote better awareness, especially among youth, of the Programme of Action;

8. *Invites* the Secretary-General to participate actively in the effective follow-up to the World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth, bearing in mind General Assembly resolution 52/83 and Economic and Social Council resolution 1997/55 and within the framework of the Programme of Action;

9. *Recommends* that the second World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth be organized under the aegis of the United Nations, and takes note with appreciation of the offer made by the Government of Turkey to organize the second World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth together with the fifth session of the World Youth Forum of the United Nations System and the World Youth Festival;[6]

10. *Welcomes* the offer of the Government of Senegal to host the fourth session of the World Youth Forum of the United Nations System in 2001;[7]

11. *Calls upon* Member States, all United Nations bodies and non-governmental organizations to continue to implement fully the guidelines for further planning and follow-up in the field of youth, adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 40/14, and the guidelines for the improvement of the channels of communication between the United Nations and youth and youth organizations, adopted by the Assembly in its resolutions 32/135 and 36/17, and in particular to facilitate, in accordance with these resolutions, the activities of youth mechanisms that have been set up by youth and youth organizations;

12. *Recognizes* the important role that could be played by the United Nations Youth Fund for the implementation of agreed programmes and mandates on youth, including the provision of support for youth activities promoting South-South cooperation;

13. *Invites* all Governments and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to contribute to the Fund, and requests the Secretary-General to take appropriate actions to encourage contributions;

14. *Recognizes* the important role of non-governmental youth organizations in the implementation of the Programme of Action at the national and international levels and in the development and evaluation of national policies, in particular concerning youth, and encourages Governments to ensure that the perspective of young people is reflected in national policies and programmes;

15. *Calls upon* all States, all United Nations bodies, the specialized agencies, the regional commissions and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to exchange knowledge and expertise on youth-related issues, upon setting up the ways and means to do so;

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[5] Ibid., resolution 2.

[6] See E/CN.5/1999/14, annex.

[7] See A/54/66-E/1999/6.

16. *Reiterates* the call made in the Programme of Action to Member States to consider including youth representatives in their delegations to the General Assembly and other relevant United Nations meetings, thus broadening the channels of communication and enhancing the discussion of youth-related issues, and requests the Secretary-General to convey this invitation again to Member States;

17. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-sixth session on the implementation of the present resolution, in particular on progress made in the implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth.

Draft resolution II
Implementation of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons: towards a society for all in the twenty-first century

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 37/52 of 3 December 1982, by which it adopted the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons, 48/96 of 20 December 1993, by which it adopted the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities, 49/153 of 23 December 1994, 50/144 of 21 December 1995 and 52/82 of 12 December 1997,

Recalling also Economic and Social Council resolutions 1997/19 of 21 July 1997 on equalization of opportunities for persons with disabilities and 1997/20 of 21 July 1997 on children with disabilities and Commission on Human Rights resolution 1998/31 of 17 April 1998 on the human rights of persons with disabilities,[8]

Recalling further the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and reaffirming the obligations contained in relevant human rights instruments, including the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women[9] and the Convention on the Rights of the Child,[10]

Reaffirming the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits and their respective follow-up reviews, in particular as they pertain to the promotion of the rights and well-being of persons with disabilities,

Noting with appreciation the important contributions of subregional, regional and international seminars and conferences related to persons with disabilities, such as the Fifth World Assembly of Disabled People's International, held at Mexico City from 1 to 7 December 1998 on the theme "Towards an inclusive twenty-first century",

Expressing grave concern that situations of armed conflict have especially devastating consequences for the human rights of persons with disabilities,

Mindful of the need to adopt and implement effective policies and strategies to promote the rights and the full and effective participation of persons with disabilities in economic, social, cultural and political life, on the basis of equality, to achieve a society for all,

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[8] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1998, Supplement No. 3* (E/1998/23), chap. II, sect. A.

[9] Resolution 34/180, annex.

[10] Resolution 44/25, annex.

Concerned that improvement of disability awareness and sensitivity to disability issues has not been significant enough to improve the quality of life of persons with disabilities worldwide,

Recognizing the importance of timely and reliable data on disability-sensitive policies, programme planning and evaluation and the need for further development of practical statistical methodology for the collection and compilation of data on populations with disabilities,

Realizing that technology, in particular information technology, provides new possibilities for improving accessibility and employment for persons with disabilities and facilitating their full participation and equality, and welcoming the initiatives of the United Nations in promoting information technology as a means of achieving the universal goal of a society for all,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons;[11]

2. *Welcomes* the initiatives of Governments to enhance the rights of persons with disabilities and for the further equalization of opportunities by, for and with persons with disabilities, and also welcomes the contribution of the United Nations system and non-governmental organizations, as appropriate, in this regard;

3. *Notes with appreciation* the valuable work undertaken by the Special Rapporteur on Disability of the Commission for Social Development under his second mandate, for the period 1997-2000;

4. *Encourages* Governments, non-governmental organizations and the private sector, as appropriate, to take concrete measures to promote the implementation of relevant United Nations resolutions and agreed international standards concerning persons with disabilities, in particular the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities, and for the further equalization of opportunities for persons with disabilities by focusing on accessibility, health, social services, including training and rehabilitation, safety nets, employment and sustainable livelihoods, in the design and implementation of strategies, policies and programmes to promote a more inclusive society;

5. *Calls upon* Governments to undertake all necessary measures to advance beyond the adoption of national plans for people with disabilities through, *inter alia*, the creation or reinforcement of arrangements for the promotion and awareness of disability issues and the allocation of sufficient resources for the full implementation of existing plans and initiatives, and emphasizes the importance of supporting national efforts through international cooperation in this regard;

6. *Encourages* Governments, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations to take practical actions, including public information campaigns, by, with and for persons with disabilities, with a view to increasing disability awareness and sensitivity to disability issues and to combating and overcoming discrimination against persons with disabilities and to further their full and effective participation in society;

7. *Encourages* Governments to continue their support to non-governmental organizations contributing to the fulfilment of the implementation of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons;

[11] A/54/388 and Add.1.

8. *Also encourages* Governments to involve persons with disabilities in the formulation of strategies and plans aimed at eradicating poverty, promoting education and enhancing employment;

9. *Urges* relevant bodies and organizations of the United Nations system, including relevant human rights treaty bodies and the regional commissions, as well as intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations and institutions, to work closely with the United Nations programme on persons with disabilities in the promotion of the rights of persons with disabilities, including activities at the field level, by sharing experiences, findings and recommendations on persons with disabilities;

10. *Urges* Governments to cooperate with the United Nations Statistics Division in the continued development of global statistics and indicators on disability, and encourages them to avail themselves of the technical assistance of the Division to build national capacities for national data-collection systems, as needed;

11. *Urges* Governments, in collaboration with the United Nations system, to give special attention to the rights, needs and well-being of children with disabilities and their families in the development of policies and programmes;

12. *Encourages* Governments, concerned non-governmental organizations and the private sector to continue to support the United Nations Voluntary Fund on Disability with a view to implementing fully the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons and the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities, including the work of the Special Rapporteur, and to support activities to build national capacities, with emphasis on priorities identified in General Assembly resolution 52/82;

13. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue supporting initiatives of relevant bodies and organizations of the United Nations system, as well as those of regional, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and institutions, for the promotion of the human rights of persons with disabilities and the further implementation of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons, and in their efforts to integrate persons with disabilities in technical cooperation activities, both as beneficiaries and as decision makers;

14. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to include, in his assessments of the implementation of the outcome of major United Nations conferences and summits to be considered at the forthcoming special sessions of the General Assembly, the contribution of these meetings to the promotion of the rights and well-being of persons with disabilities;

15. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Secretary-General for his efforts in improving the accessibility of the United Nations for persons with disabilities, and urges him to continue implementing plans to provide a barrier-free environment, as well as information in an accessible format and communication services;

16. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-sixth session, through the Commission for Social Development at its thirty-ninth session, a report on the implementation of the present resolution.

Draft resolution III
A United Nations literacy decade: education for all

The General Assembly,

Recalling that in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[12] the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights[13] and the Convention on the Rights of the Child[14] the right of every individual to education is recognized as inalienable,

Recalling also its resolutions 42/104 of 7 December 1987, by which it proclaimed 1990 as International Literacy Year, 44/127 of 15 December 1989, 46/93 of 16 December 1991, 50/143 of 21 December 1995, in which it called for continuing international efforts to promote literacy, and 52/84 of 12 December 1997, by which it requested the Secretary-General, in cooperation with the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and in consultation with Member States, to consider effective ways and means of achieving the goal of education for all, including the desirability and feasibility of launching a United Nations decade to eradicate illiteracy,

Deeply concerned about the persistence of the gender gap in education, which is reflected by the fact that nearly two thirds of the world's adult illiterates are women,

Convinced that literacy, especially functional literacy, and quality education represent a lifelong necessity for all and serve as an investment in human and social capital and a major tool for the empowerment of people,

Recalling its resolution 53/153 of 9 December 1998, entitled "United Nations Decade for Human Rights Education, 1995-2004, and public information activities in the field of human rights",

Confident that the International Literacy Year and the World Conference on Education for All, held at Jomtien, Thailand, in 1990, resulted in increased awareness and support for literacy efforts and became a turning point in the struggle for a literate world,

Underlining the importance of sustaining and further promoting the progress achieved since the International Literacy Year and the Jomtien Conference,

Welcoming the Amman Affirmation,[15] the final communiqué of the mid-decade meeting of the International Consultative Forum on Education for All, the report of the International Commission on Education for the Twenty-first Century[16] and the 1997 Hamburg Declaration on Adult Learning,

Recognizing that, despite the significant progress in basic education, especially the increase in primary school enrolment coupled with a growing emphasis on the quality of education, major problems, both emerging and continuing, still persist, which require even more forceful and concerted action at the national and international levels so as to achieve the goal of education for all,

Urging Member States, in close partnership with international organizations, as well as non-governmental organizations, to promote the right to education for all and to create conditions for all for learning throughout life,

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[12] Resolution 217 A (III).

[13] See resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

[14] Resolution 44/25, annex.

[15] A/52/183, annex.

[16] *Learning: the Treasure Within: Report to UNESCO of the International Commission on Education for the Twenty-first Century* (Paris, UNESCO, 1996).

1. *Takes note* of the interim report of the Secretary-General and the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, entitled "Progress towards the goal of education for all: the year 2000 Assessment";[17]

2. *Reaffirms* that basic education for all is essential for achieving the goals of eradicating poverty, reducing child mortality, curbing population growth, achieving gender equality and ensuring sustainable development, peace and democracy;

3. *Acknowledges* the efforts and the preparatory work at national and regional levels for the year 2000 assessment of progress towards achieving the goals of education for all in identifying both continuing and emerging challenges, and stresses the need to meet those challenges and to accelerate the efforts to meet the basic needs of people of all age groups, particularly girls and women;

4. *Appeals* to all Governments to step up their efforts to eradicate illiteracy and to direct education towards the full development of the human personality and to the strengthening of respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms;

5. *Also appeals* to all Governments to redouble their efforts to achieve their own goals of education for all by setting firm targets and timetables, where possible, including gender-specific education targets and programmes to combat the illiteracy of women and girls, and, by working in active partnership with communities, associations, the media and development agencies, to reach those targets;

6. *Appeals anew* to Governments and to economic and financial organizations and institutions, both national and international, to lend greater financial and material support to the efforts to increase literacy and achieve education for all goals, through, *inter alia*, the 20/20 initiative, as appropriate;

7. *Invites* Member States, the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system as well as relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to further intensify their efforts to effectively implement the World Declaration on Education for All,[18] the Amman Affirmation, the 1997 Hamburg Declaration on Adult Learning and Agenda for the Future of Adult Learning, and the relevant commitments and recommendations to promote literacy contained in recent major United Nations conferences and their five-year reviews with a view to better coordinating their activities and increasing their contribution to development;

8. *Welcomes* the convening of the World Education Forum, to be held in April 2000 in Senegal, with a view to assessing the implementation of the Education for All goals and adopting an agenda for education in the twenty-first century;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in cooperation with the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and Member States and with other relevant organizations and bodies, to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-sixth session, through the Economic and Social Council, a proposal for a United Nations literacy decade, with a draft plan of action and possible time-frame for such a decade, on the basis of the outcomes of the World Education Forum and the special session of the General Assembly for the five-year review of the World Summit for Social Development;

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[17] A/54/128-E/1999/70.

[18] *Final Report of the World Conference on Education for All: Meeting Basic Learning Needs, Jomtien, Thailand, 5-9 March 1990*, Inter-Agency Commission (UNDP, UNESCO, UNICEF, World Bank) for the World Conference on Education for All, New York, 1990, appendix 1.

10. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to bring the present resolution to the attention of all Member States as well as the relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations;

11. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-sixth session the question of a United Nations literacy decade.

Draft resolution IV
Cooperatives in social development

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 47/90 of 16 December 1992, 49/155 of 23 December 1994 and 51/58 of 12 December 1996, in which it requested the Secretary-General to ascertain, in cooperation with the Committee for the Promotion and Advancement of Cooperatives, the desirability and feasibility of elaborating United Nations guidelines aimed at creating a supportive environment for the development of cooperatives,

Welcoming the report of the Secretary-General on the status and role of cooperatives in the light of new economic and social trends[19] and the draft guidelines aimed at creating a supportive environment for the development of cooperatives, annexed to the report,

Recognizing that cooperatives, in their various forms, are becoming a major factor of economic and social development by promoting the fullest possible participation in the development process of women and all population groups, including youth, older persons and people with disabilities, and are increasingly providing an effective and affordable mechanism for meeting people's needs for basic social services,

Recognizing also the important contribution and potential of all forms of cooperatives to the follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development,[20] the Fourth World Conference on Women,[21] the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II)[22] and the World Food Summit,[23] including their five-year reviews,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General on the status and role of cooperatives in the light of new economic and social trends;[19]

2. *Welcomes* the elaboration of the draft guidelines aimed at creating a supportive environment for the development of cooperatives;[24]

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to seek views from Governments on the draft guidelines and provide, if necessary, a revised version for adoption;

4. *Urges* Governments, relevant international organizations and specialized agencies, in collaboration with national and international cooperative organizations, to give due consideration to the role and contribution of cooperatives in the implementation of and

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[19] A/54/57.

[20] See *Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6-12 March 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.8).

[21] See *Report of the World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13).

[22] See *Report of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), Istanbul, 3-14 June 1996* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.97.IV.6).

[23] See *Report of the World Food Summit, 13-17 November 1996* (Rome, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, 1997).

[24] A/54/57, annex.

follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit for Social Development, the Fourth World Conference on Women, the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and the World Food Summit, including their five-year reviews, by, *inter alia*:

(a) Utilizing and developing fully the potential and contribution of cooperatives for the attainment of social development goals, in particular the eradication of poverty, the generation of full and productive employment and the enhancement of social integration;

(b) Encouraging and facilitating the establishment and development of cooperatives, including taking measures aimed at enabling people living in poverty or belonging to vulnerable groups to engage on a voluntary basis in the creation and development of cooperatives;

(c) Taking appropriate measures aimed at creating a supportive and enabling environment for the development of cooperatives through, *inter alia*, developing an effective partnership between Governments and the cooperative movement;

5. *Invites* Governments, relevant international organizations, specialized agencies and local, national and international cooperative organizations to continue to observe the International Day of Cooperatives annually, on the first Saturday of July, as proclaimed by the General Assembly in its resolution 47/90 of 16 December 1992;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in cooperation with the relevant United Nations organizations and international organizations, to render support to Member States, as appropriate, in their efforts to create a supportive environment for the development of cooperatives, including through the organization of workshops and seminars at national, subregional and regional levels;

7. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to prepare, in consultation with Member States and relevant United Nations and international organizations, a report on the implementation of the present resolution, and to submit it, through the Economic and Social Council, to the General Assembly at its fifty-sixth session.

Draft resolution V
Follow-up to the International Year of the Family

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 44/82 of 8 December 1989, 46/92 of 16 December 1991, 47/237 of 20 September 1993, 50/142 of 21 December 1995 and 52/81 of 12 December 1997 concerning the proclamation, preparations for and observance of the International Year of the Family,

Recognizing that the basic objective of the follow-up to the International Year of the Family should be to strengthen and support families in performing their societal and developmental functions and to build upon their strengths, in particular at the national and local levels,

Noting that the family-related provisions of the outcomes of the world conferences of the 1990s continue to provide policy guidance on ways to strengthen family-centred components of policies and programmes as part of an integrated comprehensive approach to development,

Emphasizing that equality between women and men and respect for the rights of all family members is essential to family well-being and to society at large,

Noting with concern that the contributions to the United Nations Trust Fund on Family Activities have steadily decreased, reducing its resource base, and that, unless this trend is reversed and the Fund strengthened, many priority concerns relating to family issues will not be met,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the follow-up to the International Year of the Family,[25]

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General[25] and the recommendations contained therein;

2. *Invites* Governments to continue their actions to build family-friendly societies, *inter alia*, by promoting the rights of individual family members, in particular gender equality and the rights of the child;

3. *Urges* Governments to continue to take sustained action at all levels concerning family issues, including studies and applied research, to promote the role of families in development, and to develop concrete measures and approaches to address national priorities to deal with family issues;

4. *Recommends* that all relevant actors, including Governments, research and academic institutions and civil society, contribute to developing strategies and programmes aimed at strengthening the economic and sustainable livelihood of families;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to play an active role in facilitating international cooperation within the framework of the follow-up to the International Year of the Family, to facilitate the exchange of experiences and information among Governments on effective policies and strategies, to facilitate technical assistance, with a focus on least developed and developing countries, and to encourage the organization of subregional and interregional meetings and relevant research;

6. *Invites* the Commission for Social Development, when adopting its next multi-year programme of work, to consider undertaking a review of the global situation of the family in 2004, bearing in mind that, in different cultural, political and social systems, various forms of the family exist;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-sixth session, through the Commission for Social Development and the Economic and Social Council, on the appropriate ways and means to observe the tenth anniversary of the International Year of the Family in 2004.

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28. The Third Committee also recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft decision:

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond

The General Assembly takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond.[26]

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[25] A/54/256.

[26] A/54/59.